

**Institute of Certified
Bookkeepers
Software Review**

November 2010

Big Red Book Ltd

Company Background



Big Red Book Limited, established over seventeen years ago, is involved in the design, development, marketing and distribution of accountancy and payroll software for small to medium sized businesses. Big Red Book is owned by Marc O' Dwyer who is also the managing director of the company.

They have 16,000 registered companies using the software throughout Ireland & the UK, running the books for in excess of 35,000 companies. Big Red Book claims to be the largest Irish owned manufacturer of Accounting and Bookkeeping Software. Aimed at the lower end of the small to medium sized business, the company reports owner- managed businesses find Big Red Book an ideal product to use as it gives them accurate financial and management information.

The company's customers include retail, wholesale, pharmacies, auctioneers, solicitors, farmers and general businesses to name but a few.

Big Red Book currently employs 17 staff and its head office is located at Rathdown Hall, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

The Product

The review was carried out on version 5.01.05

Big Red Book software was initially designed for the Irish market. However, the software has been tailored for the UK market.

The product is modular with a number of optional add-ons and is priced depending on the options chosen as follows:

The prices quoted below are correct at the time of this review: for a current price list please contact Big Red Book Software on 0845 602 5804 or visit www.bigredbook.com

Big Red Book Accounts (with 1 user & 3 Companies as standard)	
BRB Lite (including 1 years support & Licence fee £135 and up to 2000 transactions per annum)	£199
BRB Basic (including Debtors & Creditors Ledger) (incl 12 mth support & Licence fee £199)	£299
BRB Plus (incl Debtors, Creditors & either Nominal, CRM or Stock Ledgers) (also incl 12 mth support & Licence fee £199/ £299 for v5)	£399

BRB Advanced (incl Debtors, Creditors, Nominal Ledger & either Stock or CRM) (incl 12 mth support & Licence fee £299)	£499
BRB Expert (incl Debtors, Creditors, Nominal Ledger, Stock & CRM) (incl 12 mth support & Licence fee £299)	£599
BRB CRM Module add-on	£199
BRB Stock Module add-on	£199

Contact details:

Rathdown Hall
Upr. Glenageary Road
Glenageary
Co. Dublin
Ireland

Email Addresses:

sales@bigredbook.com
support@bigredbook.com
info@bigredbook.com

Irish Phone: +353 (1) 204 8300
UK Phone: +44 (0)845 602 5804

<http://www.bigredbook.com>

Key Benefits

Big Red Book Accounts

- ✓ Looks and feels like traditional columnar (red) books
- ✓ Based on the 3-in-1 bookkeeping system or red ledgers
- ✓ It is suitable for any small to medium sized business
- ✓ It has a wide and varied customer base and is ideal for sole traders

Using The Big Red Book

- ✓ It looks familiar with simple screen layouts
- ✓ Automatically updates customer, supplier & bank account details
- ✓ Minimal set-up time
- ✓ Jargon free. Comes with easy to read and follow user manual

It Gives Fingertip Access To...

- ✓ Sales and Purchases figures
- ✓ How much you owe your suppliers
- ✓ How much your customers owe you
- ✓ How you stand at the bank
- ✓ Your VAT liability
- ✓ Trading Profit & Loss Account
- ✓ Balance Sheet

It Includes All the Basic Books

- ✓ Cash Book, Purchases Book & Sales Book
- ✓ Cheques Journal, Bank Accounts, Petty Cash Book
- ✓ Creditors Ledger & Debtors Ledger

Strengths

The product is available on a free trial and can be rented instead of purchased if you prefer. There is a good demonstration video on the company website. A comprehensive set of reports is available. Screens are easy to read and follow:

[illegible]

There is also the availability of extensive export options from all reports as well as a comprehensive Book Enquiry reporting tool. There is also an import feature built into this version.

Weaknesses

Although the help is comprehensive some of the error messages could be more helpful and the product would benefit from a range of tutorials to get you started.

Value for Money



The modular nature of Big Red Book means that you only have to buy what you need which saves you paying for features that you do not use. There are, however, other comparable software packages that cost less and, of course, several that cost much more than Big Red Book.

Testimonials

No explicit testimonials are shown on the website however the length of time the company has been in business and the market share of small to medium businesses in Ireland who are using Big Red Books speaks for itself.

Summary of Review

This package is well established in the market place, comprehensive and modular to meet your needs. With the capability of a free trial it should definitely be considered when comparing your options for a bookkeeping / accounting package.



Disclaimer

The Institute of Certified Bookkeepers having reviewed the Big Red Book software package version 5, cannot be held responsible in any way for the actions of the company Big Red Book or their software. This review is merely an unbiased overview of the software package. Any enquiries should be directed to info@bigredbook.com